

[Approval Meeting Date]

TO: Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Vice-Mayor Regina Romero, and Councilors Cunningham, Uhlich, Scott, Fimbres and Kozachik

CC: Andrew Quigley, Director, City of Tucson Environmental Services

Fred Gray, Deputy Director, City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Department

RE: Request for Permanent Recycling in Fully Equipped Municipal Parks with Adjoining Neighborhood Recycling Centers

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of the Tucson City Council:

The Environmental Services Advisory Committee officially recommends and requests that the City of Tucson permanently implement recycling in Tucson's fully equipped municipal parks.

These full-service parks generate a substantial amount of recyclable material that is currently disposed of in the landfill, except during special events. We recommend that those materials be recovered and sold to ReCommunity Materials Recovery Facility to increase revenue for the Department of Environmental Services.

We believe this change would entail minimal cost to Environmental Services for having to provide additional roll-offs and/or collections to accommodate the additional recyclables diverted to Neighborhood Recycling Centers. The revenue from the additional materials recovered could help offset that cost and the depressed materials market, while conserving landfill space.

The advantage to the Department of Parks and Recreation is that it could reduce the number of trash collections at these large parks, which also would benefit Environmental Services in that it would increase revenue while still handling the same amount of materials, merely collecting it in separate collections. Park staff retraining could be offset by this saving

Fully equipped municipal parks attract many patrons and could encourage more public recycling behavior and raise awareness in a large segment of the community, particularly young people. We can expect a public learning curve in which park patrons practice separating their discards in the park in the same way they do at home, reinforcing correct behavior. The recycling containers should be placed at every collection site in the parks and *substitute for at least one-third of existing trash receptacles* and would have to be of the same type to avoid loss.

In conjunction with the new policy, school children could be invited to paint the trash receptacles blue if they are of the type that can be painted and affix the recycling labels as educational outreach.

Yours sincerely,